

KRAB KRONICLE

506th Aerospace Expeditionary Group

EXPEDITIONARY AIRMEN • SUSTAINING GLOBAL REACH • MAINTAINING AIR DOMINANCE
AND SUPPORT • TO STABILIZE A NATION • SO FREEDOM CAN FLOURISH



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Freedom Air Base, Iraq

July 25, 2003

Local mayor, council visit Kirkuk



By Senior Airman
Lee Smith

Krab Kronicle editor

The mayor of Kirkuk City visited the base Wednesday, his second trip this year.

Mayor Abdulrahman Mustafa, along with city council members, visited the base Explosive Ordnance Disposal range, where the group, along with Col. Jim Callahan, 506th Air Expeditionary Group commander, destroyed ordnance taken off the streets of Kirkuk and surrounding area.

Afterwards, the group went over to the dining hall for lunch with members of the base.

Senior Airman Nicholas Karim, 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, took the opportunity to talk to one of the council members during lunch.

"I asked him what percentage of the country is Muslim," he said. "It's interesting to talk to someone from here about what is happening."

The visit of the mayor, the city council and other distinguished visitors is part of the overall public affairs program for the base.

Col. Jim Callahan, 506th Air Expeditionary Group commander, and Abdulrahman Mustafa, Kirkuk mayor, destroy captured ordnance from the city of Kirkuk as city council members look on.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Charlein Sheets

Sustaining mission during deployment

By Master Sgt. Sherrill A.J. Stewart
506th Expeditionary Security Forces
Squadron first sergeant

Kirkuk personnel will welcome several hundred newcomers to units throughout the base during the month of July.

Living and working conditions have gradually improved here since I arrived as a newcomer May 8.

The differences are like night and day for newcomers arriving this month and for those of us who have been here longer than 30 days.

The major difference is newcomers who arrived on or after July 1 will reside in the Ten Days from Tomorrow area.

Tent City is a dramatic improvement from the inadequate accommodations I was provided when I first arrived.

My team and I spent our first night here in one of the many rundown, dilapidated dormitory buildings -- the entire building was totally dark -- there was no electricity, running water or indoor toilets to use.

When I asked if an operational toilet was nearby, an Army private pointed out the door to a tree.

We arrived shortly after 11 a.m., so we had no idea how bleak our surroundings were until daylight arrived.

The view was not a pretty sight -- the building was totally rundown due to years of neglect.

We moved from that building to a

building that was not as rundown; one member of the team moved to the security forces compound, where almost half of my troops lived in tents with no electricity or air conditioning.

The unit experienced some pretty tough living conditions before moving to tent city -- I named the experience "Survivor, Combat Style." Troops had no electricity for the first two weeks after I arrived and most of the showers and toilets inside rooms did not work.

This building did have an outdoor slit trench, which was an improvement over the building I spent the night at.

The four-day shower rule was in effect, however the water was hardly ever turned on for shower day, which meant improvising.

Conditions gradually improved -- the building was wired for electricity, we obtained a fan for each room and the showers were repaired in most of the rooms.

Most of the tents in the compound finally got AC units, and were powered by generators, which was a welcome relief.

Troops living in the compound had to burn their waste daily with diesel fuel; they also had to deal with the ever-present mosquitoes and sand fleas.

A few were so badly bitten they had to get medication to treat the

bites.

Troops whose tent did not have AC had to try to get enough sleep to work a long shift.

Keep in mind that many of these troops were deployed to Basra (where living conditions were even worse) for 30 days before arriving here.

Troops who just arrived don't have to endure the substandard living conditions I just described.

You are living in a newly constructed tent city that has many of the comforts we longed for -- running water (everyday), toilets that flush and don't require shovel loads of dirt, AC and a bed with a mattress.

So, now that you are getting settled in, take some time to appreciate the fact that you are living in much more comfortable conditions than those of us who have been here longer than 30 days.

Before you complain about your living conditions or how bad it is to be here, be grateful you are not burning toilet waste everyday, living and trying to sleep in extreme heat without AC and not being able to take a shower for several days.

Take pride in your tent city home -- keep it clean (inside and outside the tents), smoke in designated smoking areas and conserve water in the showers.

These are individual responsibilities that will help make your stay in tent city pleasant and hassle-free.

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Submission deadline is noon. Monday the week before publication. All submissions are edited for content and Air Force journalistic style. For more information, visit the PA Office or call 460-0132.

(Flag is courtesy of Michelle Butzgy, Pope AFB, N.C.)

Editorial Staff

Col. Jim Callahan

Commander

Maj. Roger Lawson

Chief of Public Affairs

Tech. Sgt. Mark Getsy

NCOIC, Public Affairs

Senior Airman Lee Smith

Editor

News briefs

New dining hall

The new dining hall will serve three meals a day: breakfast from 4:30 - 7:30 a.m., lunch from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and dinner from 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Financial move

The finance office will be offering emergency services only Sunday. Finance will move into the row of buildings next to the 506th ECES compound and will be open at its same hours beginning Monday.

Don't throw uniforms in the trash

All personnel who do not want to bring their uniforms back home must turn them in to a site for them to be burned. Simply throwing away a uniform is a violation of the UCMJ.

Redeployment briefings

Redeployment briefings are held every Tuesday and Friday at 8 a.m. in the deployment processing center, in the large clam shell near the base exchange. For more information, call 460-0194.

Right Start briefing

The Right Start briefing, for those who just arrived, is held every Tuesday and Friday at 6 a.m. in the deployment processing center. For more information, call 460-0194.

506th AEF coins, T-shirts on sale at Cantina

Pre-sales of coins are available at the Cantina for \$5 each. People who pre-order a coin and are scheduled to depart can leave a pre-addressed envelop and it will be shipped for free. Limit is one coin per person. Also, T-shirt sales are ongoing at the Cantina. Cost is \$10 per shirt. Limit is one shirt per person until more shirts are ordered.

Protocol assistance

Anyone sponsoring a distinguished visitor onto Kirkuk must contact 2nd Lt. Laura Yardley at 460-0260 or laura.yardley@krab.aorcentaf.af.mil.

Sick call

The EMEDS clinic is located in the Ten Days from Tomorrow area. Sick call hours are from 8 a.m. to noon and 4 - 6 p.m. MEDEVAC is also available if needed.

The EMEDS clinic in the Rose Garden will be staffed with medical technicians and exists primarily for flight line emergency response.

Limited sick call services are available as a convenience for those personnel working on that side of the base. Those hours are 8-10 a.m. and 4-6 p.m.

Exploding ordinance

Every Wednesday and Saturday from noon to 2 p.m., the Explosive Ordnance Disposal team has scheduled range time and will conduct detonations.

Warrior of the Week

Staff Sgt.

Craig Engelson

506th Expeditionary Medical Squadron

Home station: Royal Air Force Lakenheath, U.K.

Arrived in AOR: July 10

Family: wife and two daughters

Hobbies: Remote control racing, rally racing

How do you contribute to the mission of the 506th AEG? I ensure that the medical unit receives a steady flow of life-

saving pharmaceutical and medical/surgical instruments so that the doctors, nurses and techs can save lives.

What is your favorite aspect of this deployment? Working with the people at my unit and meeting other people across the base.

Besides your family, what luxury do you miss most about the states? The wider variety of things to do on off time.

What food do you miss the most? Seafood of any kind



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Getsy

Base exchange to get upgraded

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Getsy
506th Air Expeditionary Group
Public Affairs

As Kirkuk continues to grow so will many of its services, especially the Army and Air Force Exchange Service.

In the near future, base residents will see a few additional services added to the base exchange's already popular selection.

According to Chris Holifield, BX manager, people can expect a new barber shop, alterations and gift shop very soon.

"We also have the best assortment of merchandise already in Iraq," he said. "Of course, we are missing some key items like CDs, DVDs and magazines, but they are on the way as well."

The BX staff is also working on getting other items from the local community. Holifield said the plan is to work with local vendors to start carrying items such as prayer rugs, gold and other various local merchandise.

Holifield said that all the items currently in the exchange are all approved from higher headquarters. However, he said that people could request specific items.

"The quickest way to request items is by using aafes.com," said Holifield. "That way, the item can be sent directly to you. Whatever request we receive, we try to find the closest location, either a store here in theater, in Europe or in the states. If it's coming from the states, the lead time could be six to eight weeks."

One item Kirkuk residents will not see for the time being is food. Holifield said as of right now, a Burger King coming is just a rumor.

"There is a ban right now that will not allow us to open anymore food operations in Iraq," he said. "Our headquarters is working this issue to get the ban lifted. We are just waiting on the word. If the ban is lifted, we will then start planning for future food operations."

Holifield said the exchange is doing its best to reach out to everyone in the area.

"Our goal is to build Kirkuk to the point that it has a good selection of merchandise and services," he said. "In order to do this, we will continue to add more services in the future. We also have another goal to reach out to the soldiers that do not have the opportunity to make it on the base. We are trying desperately to get out to them."



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Mark Getsy

Saw for dance

Master Sgt. Kenneth Collier, 506th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, cuts sections for the new stairs leading to the disc jockey booth on top of the Cantina. The project was one of the many which were completed during the recent "Tidy Friday."

KRAB Kevlar showcase

(From left) Capt. Shannon Dzury, Staff Sgt. Misty Bates, and Capt. Laura Cogozzo, all members of the 506th Expeditionary Medical Squadron, do their Charlie's Angels pose during the Kevlar Modeling Contest July 17 at the Cantina. The contest was a chance for the base to show their fighting spirit in a fun way. Prizes were given for the best costume in three categories.

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Charlein Sheets



Col. James Callahan, 506th AEG commander, presents an award to Maj. Scott Moser, 506th ECS commander.



Master Sgt. Ernest Ferguson, 506th AEG, shows off his triceps.



Tech. Sgt. Steven Trigg, 506th AEG Combat Camera, models his "Willie Wonka" kevlar.

Security is priority for 506th ESFS

By Senior Airman

Lee Smith

KRAB Kronicle editor

The Base Defense

Operations Center is the nerve center of the 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron and is tucked away inside Kirkuk Air Base.

Those who know exactly what to look for are very likely to find it. Anyone else trying to find it will just go around in circles. Which is exactly the way they want it.

According to 1st Lt. David Sims, 506th ESFS, there are a lot of troops here.

"We are the largest security forces unit in Iraq and the second largest group in this area of responsibility," he said. "We can't get into specific numbers, but we are well prepared to defend the base."

Sims said the squadron physically protects the base in various ways.

"Our people are placed in certain positions around the base, to include the flightline," he said. "We also have mounted patrols, our working dogs at the gates and our escorts who follow all of the third country nationals who come onto base. We have people checking for proper identification in certain buildings, and everyone of us is armed with a weapon and ammunition."

Staff Sgt. Jerry Kelley, 506th ESFS, said that



Courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Greg Aderhole, 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, mans a Humvee at night to secure the base.

"What the base has done since we first arrived is unbelievable...but people should remember that the threat of an attack on the base is still real."

— 1st Lt. David Sims

securing the base is their number one priority, but they shouldn't be the only people on this base concerned about it.

"Security should be on everybody's mind," Kelley said. "We are the first line of defense, but everyone can help us out by remaining vigilant."

Sims agreed that being aware of what is going on is a big deterrent.

"If there is anything that you think is suspicious, don't hesitate to call us," Sims said. "That is what we are here for."

Sims said that the Army also helps them with security.

"We secure the entire perimeter of the base and the Army secures the surrounding area," Sims said. "Our primary goal is to provide 100 percent protection of the base at all times."

Kelley, whose home station is Robins Air Force Base, Ga., said what he does here is very similar to his job there.

"The threat is higher here, but otherwise, it's pretty much the same," Kelley said.

Sims said there are three or four main threats to the base.

"The primary threats are people with small arms, AK-47s, rocket attacks, and

drive-by shootings," he said. "For this reason, we do not want to provide a soft, stationary target."

Sims, here since earlier May, said people should enjoy the comforts here, but not get too comfortable.

"What the base has done since we first arrived is unbelievable: Cantina, BX, dining hall, etc. But people should remember that the threat of an attack on the base is still real," Sims said. "It may not be hectic right now, but that doesn't mean that as a moment's notice things won't be heating up again."

Kelley added that attitude could also be a factor in security.

"Complacency in this type of environment is one of the worst things people can become," Sims said. "We know there are people who don't want us here."

Scores and more

MLB standings

(as of Wednesday)

American League

East	W	L	GB
NYN	62	37	-
BOS	60	40	2.5
TOR	52	49	11
BAL	47	51	14.5
TB	35	64	27

Central

KC	55	44	-
CHW	51	50	5
MIN	49	51	6.5
CLE	42	59	14
DET	26	73	29.5

West

SEA	60	39	-
OAK	56	43	4
ANA	50	49	10
TEX	41	59	19.5

National League

East	W	L	GB
ATL	66	34	-
PHI	56	43	9.5
FLA	53	48	13.5
MON	51	50	15.5
NYM	42	58	24

Central

HOU	50	44	-
STL	49	45	4
CHC	50	50	5.5
PIT	45	53	9.5
CIN	44	56	11.5
MIL	40	60	15.5

West

SF	63	37	-
ARI	54	46	9
LA	52	47	10.5
COL	51	52	13.5
SD	39	64	25.5

In other headlines...

College Football ... The Bowl Championship Series committee doesn't plan to start a tournament to determine the national champion.

Hockey ... After losing Sergei Federov to Anaheim, Detroit looks to keep Steve Yzerman.

Chapel Schedule

Saturday

7 p.m. -- Catholic Mass

Sunday

8 a.m. -- Gospel Service

9 a.m. -- Catholic Mass
(Sky Soldier chapel)

10 a.m. -- General

Protestant

11:30 a.m. Catholic Mass

1 p.m. -- Latter-Day Saints

Meeting

2 p.m. -- Catholic Mass
(Sky Soldiers Chapel)

5:30 p.m. Liturgical

Protestant

7 p.m. Protestant Service

Friday

9 a.m. Catholic Mass

(Sky Soldier chapel)

All services are held at the Ten Days From Tomorrow Chapel unless otherwise noted.

All times are subject to change.

Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist and others should contact chapel administration for updates of their religious requirements and support.

Building a first-rate personnel system

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

It is all about building a first-rate personnel system to complement a first-rate military, said David Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

In an interview, Chu spoke about the changes that may come about if Congress allows Department of Defense officials to set up the National Security Personnel System.

For military people, it will mean that many jobs -- 300,000 by some estimates -- now being performed by servicemembers will revert to civilian employees or contractors. For the reserve components, it may allow people to move between active duty and reserve component jobs more easily.

These changes were originally part of the Defense Transformation for the 21st Century Act of 2003. The legislation is

now being considered as part of the Defense Authorization Act.

Chu said the vast majority of Americans "think we're stodgy and unresponsive, and they are right."

It takes time to hire a new worker, he said. This can cause serious problems in offices, especially if someone leaves unexpectedly.

"Everybody wants to be part of a first-rate organization," Chu said. "And first rate means if you're not cutting it, then you're out of there. And we don't have the mechanisms to do that."

Officials will build on the successes of nine demonstration projects to put pay banding into effect. Officials must wait for changes in legislation to institute the practice throughout DOD.

"We are not seen by the nation's young people as a good choice," Chu said. We have to change that."

EOD ordnance item of the week

BLU-63 Sub-munition - These munitions are small, aerially dispensed, high explosive fragmentation sub-munitions. Personnel discovering these items should leave them alone and not touch them. They have a lethal radius of up to 450 feet. Mark the area in accordance with the Airman's Manual, and contact the Kirkuk Explosive Ordnance Disposal with the location at 460-0903.



Photo courtesy of EOD

Commonly used phone numbers

ATOC	460-0038
BDOC	460-0960
CC Supt. Section ...	460-0099
CE Cust. Serv.	460-0021
Chaplain	460-0130
Command Chief	460-0052
Command Post.	460-0077
COMM Help Desk ...	460-0000
Contracting	460-0860
Dining Facility.	460-0605
EMEDS	460-0502
EOD	460-0903
Fire Department	460-0030
Finance	460-0866
First Sergeant	460-0016
Legal	460-0117
Lodging	460-0123
Logistics Plans	460-0194
OSI	460-0800
PERSCO	460-0122
Public Affairs	460-0131
Protocol	460-0260
Safety	460-0090
Supply	460-0039

For a complete listing of all of the Kirkuk agencies, log onto the base's main page at <http://www.krab.aorcentaf.af.mil/Phonebooks.htm>

What's Your Sign?

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22) Stop "lion" about your skills. You did not score in the crow's nest.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) Remember to smile at those who annoy you by saying they're better than you. Then check out Gemini's plan for revenge.

Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22) Strength, poise, articulating... these are the traits of someone else. Just keep staring at our feet and whisper, "But that's my stapler."

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) Hmm... What do scabies look like?

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) Given the choice between form and function, you always choose form. For a change, try to function this week.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20) Be careful of your words. They may be taken the wrong way. Never contract the word seeming.

Aquarius (Jan. 21 - Feb. 18)

According to history, you did not invent the perfect pickup line.

According to your dating record, you can't even come up with one.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20) Gain insight to your self by observing others. See that face they make when you talk? Dude, brush your teeth.

Aries (Feb. 19 - March 20) People come to you for answers. Play just one more game of Battleship and make them wait.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) No one is an island. Reconsider your stance on the buddy system for tick checks.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20) Don't be so argumentative with those who criticize you. Wait until they're asleep when they can't fight back.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22) Try to be more sensitive with your coworkers. Tell them how sorry you are that they can't be as good as you..

Trivia

Sports

Which one of these organizations is the oldest in the majors?

- A. NY Yankees
- B. St. Louis Cardinals
- C. Chicago Cubs
- D. Cincinnati Reds
- E. Boston Red Sox

Military

What was the first aircraft officially known as "Air Force One"?

- A. DC-6
- B. VC-137
- C. C-54
- D. C-137C
- E. C-17

Movies

What was the name of Julia Roberts' character in Pretty Woman?

- A. Vivian Lewis
- B. Vivian Ward
- C. Vivian Walters
- D. Vivian Lloyd
- E. Vivian Banks

Bonus question: What was the exact date the first CSAF was sworn in?

Answers can be sent to the 506th AEW/PA office.

E-mail answers@krab.aorcentaf.af.mil to mark.getsy@krab.aorcentaf.af.mil with the correct answers.

The first person will have their pic-

ture published in the following week's Krab Kronicle.

Answers to all of the Krab Knowledge trivia questions will be published in the Monday edition of the Krabloid.